

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I'm writing to: 1) **SUPPORT SB 239** (which would ban certain rodenticides) and **OPPOSE HB 5295** (promotes rabbit slaughter).

Please SUPPORT SB 239, An Act Prohibiting the Use of Certain Rodenticides for the Protection of Hawks, Raptors and Other Wildlife. There are innovative, humane solutions to these problems, like botanical repellants, and fertility control. These anticoagulant toxins (FGARs and SGARs) poison the entire food chain, harming wildlife and pets, and should be banned on both state and private land.

Please OPPOSE HB 5295, An Act Concerning Agriculture Development and Innovation. This bill contains the same language on rabbit slaughter as was in HB 5263, An Act Concerning the Processing of Rabbits for Consumption, which just had a public hearing on 3/1/22. Over 100 testimonies were filed in OPPOSITION to HB 5263. I respectfully ask that the Environment Committee consider these HB 5263 testimonies as relevant to HB 5295. This redundant public hearing is a corruption of the normal process and highly confusing to voters.

There is no demand for rabbit meat. Whole Foods tried selling it a few years ago, and stopped after vigorous public condemnation. Worse, HB 5295 introduces a new form of cruel factory farming. We should not extend such obscene cruelty to another animal species. Additionally, with the threat of viruses from closely confined animals jumping from animals to humans, Connecticut's Department of Agriculture should instead be promoting plant-based markets, including expansion and innovation of plant-based proteins, to ensure a greater availability of more diverse, safe, and dependable protein sources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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